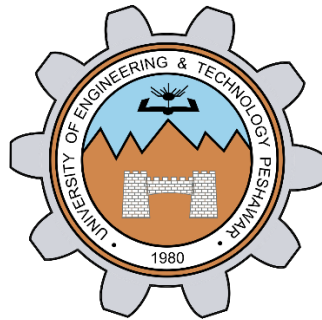


# **Assignment no.2**

## **[AE-403] Landscape Engineering**



**Prepared by: Naqeeb Ullah**

**Registration No.: 21PWAGR0856**

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**Submitted to: Dr. Muhammad Hameed Khan**

**Department of Agricultural Engineering**  
**Faculty of Civil, Agricultural and Mining Engineering**  
**University of Engineering & Technology Peshawar (Pakistan)**

# Historic Landscaping of Pakistan: The Makli Necropolis

The Makli Necropolis, located near Thatta in Sindh, Pakistan, is one of the largest and most ancient burial grounds in the world. Spanning over 10 square kilometers, it is a unique example of historic landscaping that blends natural elements with architectural and cultural heritage. The site, which dates back to the 14th century, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and serves as a testament to centuries of history, art, and culture in the region.



## Historical Background

Makli Necropolis is believed to have originated during the reign of Jam Tamachi, a ruler of the Samma dynasty. It became a favored burial site for royals, saints, and scholars, spanning several dynasties, including the Samma, Arghun, Tarkhan, and Mughal periods. Over 500,000 tombs are estimated to exist here, each reflecting the artistic and cultural influences of its era.



## Landscaping Features

Makli Necropolis exhibits a harmonious blend of nature and human ingenuity, making it a remarkable example of historic landscaping:

**Natural Terrain:** The necropolis is situated on a ridge overlooking the surrounding plains, with its elevated position offering a commanding view of the area. This natural feature enhances its visual prominence and spiritual significance.

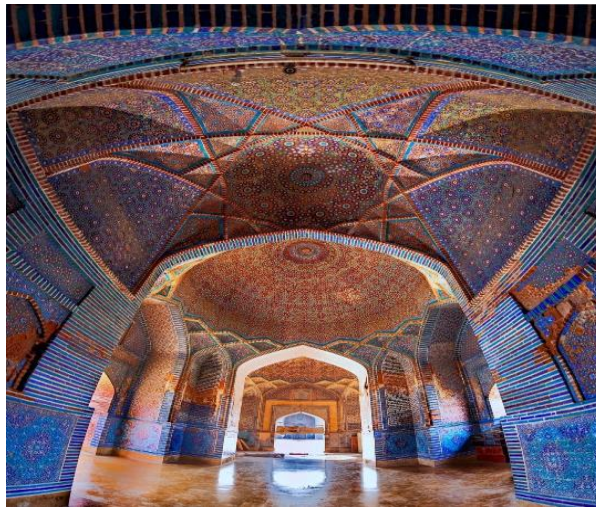


**Planned Layout:** The site is divided into clusters of tombs and mausoleums, separated by pathways and open spaces. This planned arrangement reflects an aesthetic sense of balance and symmetry, emphasizing accessibility and coherence.

**Integration with Nature:** The tombs are interspersed with native vegetation, including acacia trees, which not only provide shade but also contribute to the serene atmosphere of the necropolis.

## Architectural Elements

The tombs at Makli showcase a variety of architectural styles, reflecting the diversity of the cultures and eras that influenced the region:



**Ornate Tombs:** The structures are adorned with intricate carvings, geometric patterns, and calligraphy, primarily in sandstone. These decorations reflect Islamic, Hindu, and Persian artistic traditions.

**Domes and Pavilions:** Many tombs are crowned with domes, often surrounded by carved pillars and arches. The architectural symmetry aligns with the broader landscaping of the necropolis.

**Gravestones and Shrines:** Simple gravestones coexist with grand mausoleums, highlighting the site's inclusivity across social and economic strata.

## Cultural and Spiritual Significance

Makli Necropolis is not merely a burial ground; it is a sacred site that reflects the region's spiritual and cultural evolution. Many of the buried individuals were Sufi saints, whose shrines attract pilgrims to this day. The site embodies a blend of reverence for the deceased and the celebration of artistic achievement.



## Challenges and Conservation

Makli Necropolis faces numerous challenges, including:

**Environmental Degradation:** The sandstone structures are vulnerable to erosion and weathering.

**Urban Encroachment:** Expansion of nearby settlements threatens the site's integrity.

**Neglect and Vandalism:** Lack of adequate maintenance has led to the deterioration of some tombs.

Efforts by the Pakistani government, UNESCO, and other organizations aim to preserve this unique site for future generations through restoration and awareness campaigns.

